Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 16 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   An image processing apparatus comprising:

a detecting part which detects, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

a ~~pattern~~ generating part which generates a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection made by said detecting part, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-luminance portion;

a separating part which separates a color signal from the image signal; and

a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first storage part which stores an output from said detecting part, wherein said

generating part generates the ~~control signal in dependence upon~~ two dimensional pattern

according to an output from said first storage part; and

a second storage part which stores this ~~control signal~~ pattern, wherein said

suppression part suppresses the color signal using the ~~control signal~~ pattern read out of said

second storage part.

3 (PRESENTLY PRESENTED):   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image

signal is a signal of an image captured by image sensing part, and said detecting part detects a

saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~control~~

~~signal~~ two dimensional pattern has ~~a waveform for obtaining a~~ the suppression characteristic in

which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is

reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is

eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   An image processing method comprising:

detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a

predetermined value;

generating a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-~~

~~dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a~~

~~horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced~~

~~from the detected high-luminance portion toward the periphery of the detected high-luminance~~

~~portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting~~ <u>two dimensional pattern</u>

<u>according to the detection made in said detecting processing, the pattern spreading two-</u>

<u>dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a</u>

<u>horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics that a</u>

<u>suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-</u>

<u>luminance portion</u>;

separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area

including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical

direction on the image by the ~~control signal~~ <u>two dimensional pattern</u>.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

first storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating step

generates the ~~control signal~~ <u>two dimensional pattern</u> in dependence upon this stored high-

luminance portion; and

second storing this ~~control signal~~ <u>two dimensional pattern</u>, wherein said

suppression step suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored ~~control signal~~ <u>two</u>

<u>dimensional pattern</u>.

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED):   The method according to claim 5, wherein the image signal

is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting step detects a

saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

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8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The method according to claim 5, wherein the ~~control~~

~~signal has a waveform for obtaining a~~ two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic

in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is

reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is

eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for

executing:

    detection processing for detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance

portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

    generation processing for generating a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed~~

~~waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the~~

~~periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a~~

~~suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the~~

~~detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting~~

~~processing~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection in said detection processing, the

pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the

periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression

characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a

periphery of the high-luminance portion;

    separation processing for separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppression processing for suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed

two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal

direction and the vertical direction on the image by the ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The storage medium according to claim 9, said storage

medium further storing:

a program for executing processing for storing the detected high-luminance

portion, wherein said generating processing generates the ~~control signal in dependence upon this~~

~~stored high-luminance portion~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection made in said

detecting processing; and

a program for executing processing for storing this ~~control signal~~ two dimensional

pattern, wherein said suppression processing suppresses the color signal upon reading out the

stored ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the

image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting

processing detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

12 (CURRENTLY AMENDED):   The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the

~~control signal has a waveform for obtaining a~~ two dimensional pattern has the suppression

characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and

suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery

thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance

portion.

13-16 (CANCELLED).